

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /074 W

----- 027453

R 051659Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AZ, MARR, SP, PO

SUBJ: OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO COMMENTS ON AZORES AND ELP

REF: MADRID 3016

1. IN ADDITION TO THE REMARKS ON NATO REPORTED IN REFTEL,
ACCORDING LISBON PRESS COPCON COMMANDER BRIGADIER OTELO SARAIVA
DE CARVALHO REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS IN INTERVIEW
WITH SPANISH NEWSWEEKLY "CAMBIO 16":

A. AZORES: THE GENERAL DISCLOSED THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT
POSSIBLE AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR A SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN THE
AZORES AND BY THE FACT THAT "SUCH INSANITY MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE
TO CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE AZORES."

B. ELP ACTIVITY IN SPAIN: "PERHAPS THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS
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CLOSED ITS EYES TOO LONG TO THE GROWING ORGANIZATION OF THE

PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY (EXERCITO DE LIBERTACAO PORTUGUES--
ELP) IN ITS TERRITORY." THE SPANISH SECURITY SERVICES, HE SAID,
"COULD ABORT AND STOP THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELP WHICH IS
BEING FORMED IN SPAIN, SEEING AS HOW IT IS ORGANIZED THERE
AND COMMANDED FROM THERE."

2. COMMENT: ONE OF THE MOST TALKATIVE OF THE AFM LEADERS,
OTELLO IS OFTEN A USEFUL GUIDE TO WHAT THE AFM MEMBERS HAVE
ON THEIR MINDS. HE DOES NOT ALWAYS SPEAK FOR THE MOVEMENT,
BUT WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE ELP AND THE AZORES ARE
MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GOP.

3. ON MAY 5, A RELIABLE MILITARY SOURCE TOLD DATT THAT
SARAIVA DE CARVALHO'S ATTACKS ON THE AMBASSADOR AND COMMENTS
CONCERNING NATO AND THE AZORES ARE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO
PROVOKE THE USG TO CUT EXISTING TIES WITH PORTUGAL, BOTH
BILATERALLY AND THROUGH NATO, THUS PROVIDING A RATIONALE FOR
THE AFM TO SEEK CLOSER ALLIANCE WITH "THE EAST." HE CAUTIONED
AGAINST PRECIPITOUS REACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0291
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750581/aaaacwkp.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 3016
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO COMMENTS ON AZORES AND ELP
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MARR, SP, PO, US, (CARVALHO, OTELO SARAIVA DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006